

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) released the following statement today after the U.S. Department of Labor reported that the nation's economy lost 190,000 jobs in the month of October and the unemployment rate rose from 9.8 percent to 10.2 percent: "Rather than working to fix the economy and create more jobs, Democratic Leaders continue to focus on a partisan agenda of massive spending increases, expanding government, job-killing taxes, and a government takeover of health care. Today's sobering unemployment report is yet another reminder that Florida's families and small businesses are struggling. It's clear that the Stimulus did not work as promised. It is time for Congress to put politics aside and focus on the passing common sense legislation that will put Floridians back to work.

"I have introduced two bipartisan pieces of legislation with my colleague Rep. John Boccieri (D-Ohio) that would incentivize employers to create new jobs. The "

[Helping Invigorate and Revive our Economy Act of 2009](#)

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(H.R. 3784), also known as the HIRE America Act, will expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to encourage employers to hire additional employees and expand their businesses.

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[The Back to Work Tax Credit Act](#)

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(H.R. 3953

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encourages employers to create new jobs by hiring the long-term unemployed. The legislation, which builds upon the HIRE America Act, specifically expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to give employers a tax credit for hiring people who have been collecting unemployment benefits for 26 weeks.

"These are two common sense bills that can go a long way to help get Floridians back to work tomorrow. Creating new jobs for all Americans needs to be the top priority for Congress."

For additional information on the current Work Opportunity Tax Credit please click here:

<http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>

Jobless Rate Jumps to 10.2% as Labor Market Still Weak

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/33714693>